THE LOVES OF THE BOLD... THE GLORY OF THE BRAVE!
the BOLD and the BRAVE
WENDELL COREY · MEATY ROONEY · DON TAYLOR · NICOLE MAUREY
JOHN SMITH · RACE BENTLEY

FAR LEFT: Tara on the 1956 album cover for the Dom Frontiere Octet's Fabulous on the Liberty label. **LEFT:** Wendell Corey and Mickey Rooney with Tara Summers (right, in her only movie role) in The Bold and the Brave (1956).

SAMUEL CLAESSON

This isn't the British-born Tara Summers who appeared on television's *Boston Legal* in the 2000s, but rather the gorgeous brunette who spent years singing in nightclubs before acting in *The Bold and the Brave* (1956) with Wendell Corey and Mickey Rooney. She showed a lot of promise but various factors prevented her from achieving the same status as Dinah Shore or Ethel Merman.

Eleanor Ann Adler sang in the choir at Beverly Hills High School and studied at the University of California, Los Angeles for a few months. Changing her name to Tara Summers, a name was inspired by the plantation in *Gone with the Wind* (1939), embarked on a career in the theater by joining The Circle Players. *Assembly Call, Montmartre,* and *Girl on the Via Flamina* were among the stage productions she appeared in with this talented troupe. Her reviews were solid, prompting columnist Paul Price to say, "Keep this girl in mind. She's going places."

With some onstage experience under her belt, she ventured into music with a nightclub act at Lake Tahoe's Cal-Neva Lodge, which was owned by her father Sanford Adler. Tara spent a few years at the glamorous venue entertaining patrons with her impressive vocal range. It was after a performance that famed lyricist Ray Gilbert approached her and offered to be her informal agent. He returned days later to watch Tara perform, bringing a designer to do her wardrobe so she could get more gigs. There was an uptick in her career until Ray started losing interest and instead invested heavily in his own daughter's career. He did get Tara a screen test with Universal, but she wasn't given a contract.

She started getting television roles on *The Abbott and Costello Show, The Ken Murray Show, Highway Patrol,* and the *Colgate Comedy Hour* before being cast in *The Bold and the Brave* (1956), a war-themed film where she gave a respectable dramatic performance.

Tara was named one of the Wampus Baby Stars of 1955, a distinction awarded to only a few aspiring actresses. You'd think she'd keep going, but, like a lot of starlets of that era, she chose love instead. On October 26, 1958, Tara married Harvey Miller, and had two children (Andrea and John). Andrea told me that her multi-talented mother spent her later years doing secretarial work until her death in November 2023 at the age of 91.